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# the gull

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## The Endangered Snow Leopard

Our January general membership meeting will feature Rod Jackson of the Bodega Bay Institute who will share his experiences tracking the Snow Leopard in Nepal. The purpose of his trip was to evaluate the problems this endangered species encounters as well as to obtain the first photograph of a wild Snow Leopard.

Nepal is experiencing a traumatic disruption of ancient traditions and customs. Rod will describe his encounters with poachers in the remote backcountry near the Tibetan border and talk about the economic pressures that make villagers turn to poaching. The slide show documents his long trek into the mountains with his Sherpa porters as well as vast landscapes, ancient temples and warm personal portraits.

If you have never before attended a membership meeting, this is your opportunity to be at one that promises to be memorable. Our new San Francisco meeting place is the Travelodge at Fisherman's Wharf, 250 Beach St. Located across from Pier 39, it should prove convenient with free parking in the guest lots. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m., January 11, in the Golden Gate Room.

The Program Committee would like to invite members to join with them to help plan the next series of programs. If you have some free time and interest in this project, please call the GGAS office, 843-2222.

—RAY HASEY, *Program Chairman*

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## Field Trips Calendar

**Saturday, January 13 — Chain of Lakes, Golden Gate Park.** Meet at 8 a.m. at North Lake by 43rd Ave. and Fulton St. entrance to the Park. We will walk in the area of the Chain of Lakes and look for ducks and assorted winter residents. Lunch optional. Leader: Erline Hevel (661-4251).

**Sunday, January 14 — Palo Alto Baylands.** Take Hwy. 101 south to Palo Alto, exit at Embarcadero and drive east toward the yacht harbor and the Baylands Refuge until you reach the duck pond on the left just beyond the Palo Alto Airport. Meet here at 9 a.m. Bring lunch. We should see shorebirds, waders and ducks, including Blue-winged Teal. Leader: Dan Murphy (564-0074). (✓)

**Wednesday, January 17 — Mini trip to Lake Chabot, San Leandro.** Take Hwy. 580 to the Dutton Ave. off ramp. Meet at Piper's restaurant parking lot, MacArthur Blvd. and Dutton Ave., at 9 a.m. We will look for waterfowl and winter residents of the area. If it rains the trip will be rescheduled for January 24. Leaders: Ruth Voss and Delpha deTimofeev (632-5176). (✓)

**Friday, Saturday and Sunday, January 19-21 — Southern Mendocino coast.** Here is an excellent opportunity to watch whales from the Bodega Bay Institute's north coast center, Pelican House, near Pt. Arena. Situated atop a coastal cliff, it offers excellent views of the ocean even in inclement weather. A short birding walk is planned at the mouth of the Garcia River for wintering swans. Another trip to the Pt. Arena lighthouse should produce a variety of shorebirds and alcids. Harlequin Ducks and Rock Sandpipers are regular visitors here.

There is a \$10 fee for use of Pelican House which offers hostel-type accommodations but does not include meals. Motels are available in the area. Reservations are necessary for the trip. For details call Ray Hasey (548-3546). (✓)

**Sunday, January 21 — Panoche Valley.** Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the intersection of Hwy. 25 and J-1 in Paicines, 12.5 miles south of Hollister. From there we will drive east to I-5 to a point south of Los Banos. Bring lunch and be sure to fill your gas tank in Hollister before the trip. In the past we have seen Mountain Plover, Mountain Bluebird, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Vesper Sparrow and Lewis' Woodpecker. Leader: Chris Carpenter (376-6802). (✓)

**Sunday, January 21 — Lake Merritt, Oakland.** Meet at 9 a.m.

at the Rotary Science Center in Lakeside Park for some leisurely birding. We should see a fine variety of wintering waterfowl. After the trip visit the Fungus Fair at the Oakland Museum to learn about many of the moulds, mushrooms and other fungi you can see when birding in the Bay Area. Leader: Clarence Maynard (527-0274).

**Saturday, January 27 — Dillon Beach.** Meet at 8:45 a.m. at the Bank of America building on Hwy. 1 in the town of Tomales. We will caravan the 7 miles to Lawson's Landing where there is an entrance fee. Bring lunch. We should see three species of loons, Red-necked Grebe, Brant and a variety of ducks and shorebirds. Leader: Mary Louise Rosegay (386-1640). (✓)

**Saturday, February 3 — Grizzly and Joice Island Wildlife Area.** Take I-80 north to Fairfield. Exit at West Texas St. and continue to the right (south) for about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to the Fairfield City Park. Meet at the parking lot on the right at 8:30 a.m. From there we will caravan to the refuge area. We should see a variety of waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors and marshbirds. Bring lunch. Leader: Peter Allen (548-4592). (✓)

**Sunday, February 11 —** GGAS will sponsor a pelagic trip leaving from Monterey Harbor. For further details see the December *Gull* or contact GGAS, 2718 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 94705 (843-2222).

**Future trip — Morro Bay** by bus, February 16-18, leaving Friday night and returning Sunday evening. If you are interested, send your address and phone number to Betty Short, 3229-A Clement St., San Francisco, 94121, for further details.

**Carpooling —** The trips marked (✓) are those for which carpooling arrangements will be handled. If you care to take riders or want a ride, call Kate Partridge at 642-5784, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. If I'm not available, leave a message and I will contact you. There are some good trips planned for January and it would be heartening if more of you participated in these short trips. Passengers should be willing to share all gas and fees incident to the trip.

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

### BOARD NOMINATIONS OPEN

Nominations are now open for two positions on next year's board. There are openings for Treasurer and one West Bay Director. Nominations should be sent to the GGAS office.

—DAVID LITTLEJOHN, *Nomination Committee Chairman*

## November Observations

### Through November 26

After October's frenetic pace, November restored Central California birding to the realm of sanity.

### "PRIMITIVE" WATERBIRDS

A few Northern Fulmars appeared, one at MacKerricher State Park, Mendocino County, Nov. 16 (KVV). Of two Fulmars at Bodega Bay Nov. 24 (JP, LCB, BDP), the one on the lagoon was not too surprising but the other was flying inland! More noteworthy were the first records of Manx Shearwater in California north of Marin County: 20-25 passing Bodega Head Nov. 11 (BDP, JP, *et al.*), 20 at Laguna Point, MacKerricher State Park Nov. 16 (KVV) and two at Salt Point State Park, Sonoma County, Nov. 25 (JP, BDP). The usual November Cattle Egrets appeared in coastal Marin County: three on Pierce Point Nov. 6 (RS), five at Inverness Park Nov. 11 (EM) with four still present Nov. 25 (AG, WG), two at the north end of Bolinas Lagoon Nov. 24 (RH, SHi) and perhaps the same two on the west side of the lagoon the same day (JP, LCB, BDP).

A **Trumpeter Swan** flying southeast over Lake Merced, San Francisco, Nov. 11 was conveniently (for identification by size comparison) with nine Whistling Swans (JM, *et al.*). Eurasian Wigeons are settling in predictably: one at Abbott's Lagoon Nov. 12 (BHe, SHe, *et al.*), one at Alameda South Shore Nov. 16 (HC), four there Nov. 18 (LF) and one on Bolinas Lagoon late in the month (mob). For the third consecutive winter a hybrid male **Ring-necked Duck X scaup** is inhabiting Lake Merritt (HC, *et al.*). Its markings suggest to me that the scaup parent was a Lesser. Also, Ring-necked Duck and Lesser Scaup are broadly sympatric while breeding. **Tufted Ducks** are similarly becoming annual at favored locations: a female at Rodeo Lagoon Nov. 11 (DB, DMcC, mob) and joined by a second male Nov. 23 (HC), and a male at the large Muddy Hollow pond near Limantour Nov. 23 (GGAS). Are the coincident dates indicative of something? The Lake Merritt arrivals should be accurate because the lake is checked daily (by HC), but the other observations may not have coincided with the ducks' arrivals. Barrow's Golden-eye and Harlequin Duck reports were normal. Observers found four Oldsquaws in mid-month: Pescadero Lagoon Nov. 12 (JR), MacKerricher State Park Nov. 16 (KVV) and Bay Bridge Toll Plaza Nov. 18-25 (BHi, *et al.*).



## CHARADRIIFORMES

Several American Golden Plovers frequented the longspur fields near the Spaletta Ranch through Nov. 5 (mob) and one was similarly at the Hall Ranch Nov. 10 (DZ). Unlike the October individual, this month's **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** was seen only one day: Nov. 13 at the Bolinas Sewage Ponds (SG, GP, LS, BM). The Pt. Pinos Rock Sandpiper was refound Nov. 3 and 7 (*fide* RB) and Nov. 11 (JL). Two of the Rock Sandpipers that winter at Bodega Head were back by Nov. 13 (SFB, *et al.*). The fall's only Franklin's Gull was an immature at Foster City Nov. 2 (EM).

## LANDBIRDS: HAWKS THROUGH THRUSHES

One of October's Broad-winged Hawks remained at the mouth of the Carmel River and was seen by many through at least Nov. 19 (EM, AM) and another individual was also there Nov. 11 (JL). Elsewhere, single Broad-winged Hawks flew over the Shields Salt Marsh, Inverness, Oct. 31 (RS) and Bodega Bay Nov. 2 (*fide* BDP). The latest irruptive Lewis' Woodpecker was reported from the road to the Fish Docks Oct. 31 (BF, *et al.*). After September the only kingbird likely to occur is the Tropical, so an unidentified kingbird at Pittsburg, Contra Costa County, Nov. 11 (SF) was probably this species, despite the inland location. Identified Tropical Kingbirds were represented by one at the Shields Salt Marsh Oct. 31 (*fide* BF) and two on Nov. 26 at Belmont Slough Nature Preserve, Foster City (FC), about one mile from where one wintered last year. Flycatcher **Find of the Month Award** goes to the Nunes Ranch **Eastern Phoebe** on Nov. 11 (PW, mob). Probably the same Yellow-billed Magpie was found Nov. 6 (VK) across Rodeo Lagoon from its October location. A **Brown Thrasher** visited the Bodega Bay Rail Ponds Nov. 8 (DS). For the fourth consecutive year the **Bendire's Thrasher** is wintering in Courtland, after returning early in the fall (AP). This individual proves that some vagrants can chance on a good thing and exploit it. A very rare **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was detected on the mainland (Point Reyes Lighthouse Oct. 31 - RS, *et al.*) despite its typically elusive behavior.

## WARBLERS AND BLACKBIRDS

One Black-and-white Warbler from October remained at the mouth of the Carmel River (mob) at least through Nov. 19 (EM, AM); it may winter. Another Black-and-white was at Stinson Beach Nov. 4 (RS). Eight Tennessee Warblers comprised a good showing for November:

1	Nunes Ranch	Oct.	31	RS
3	Nunes Ranch	Nov.	5 (one Nov. 4)	JL, <i>et al.</i>
2	Bodega Bay (town)	Nov.	10	DS
1	Nunes Ranch	Nov.	15	BR, BF
1	Bodega Bay (Rail Ponds)	Nov.	24	JP, BDP, LCB

A **Lucy's Warbler** at the mouth of the Carmel River Nov. 11 (DP) through at least Nov. 19 (EM, AM mob) will no doubt be sought by Monterey Christmas Counters. A bright male Cape May Warbler highlighted a flock of late migrants in lupines near the Point Reyes Lighthouse parking lot Nov. 5 (EM). One female Black-throated Blue Warbler was observed at the mouth of the Carmel River Nov. 11 (PLaT). Some vagrants along the mouth of the Carmel River can be found only intermittently and clearly spend much of their time beyond the river banks. Despite intense searching, the Cerulean Warbler (present there Oct. 27) could not be located. However, on Oct. 29 an enlightened (and successful) search for the Black-throated Green Warbler (previously chronicled through that date) in the cypress along the first street north of the river also uncovered the **Cerulean Warbler** high in nearby poplars (EM). This should not be lost on vagrant hunters. The last Black-poll Warbler visited Nunes Ranch on Nov. 7 (AG, WG, *et al.*). The same site held a Prairie Warbler Nov. 14-15 (AG, WG, BR). A maximum of eight Palm Warblers is not impressive for late October and November on the mainland:

4	Nunes Ranch	Oct.	31 (one or more earlier)	RS
2	Nunes Ranch	Nov.	5 (one Nov.4 - continuing?)	EM, mob
1	Bodega Bay Rail Ponds	Nov.	5-11	KVV, RROS, BDP, JP
1	Nunes Ranch	Nov.	15	BR, BF

The Northern Waterthrush first seen Oct. 18 remained at the Bodega Bay Rail Ponds at least through Nov. 25 (JMcG, LD, *et al.*). This and a male **Hooded Warbler** along the creek at Muir Woods Nov. 13 (SHu, JM) through at least Nov. 26 (mob) are both likely to attempt wintering at these sites. A **Canada Warbler** surprised observers at the mouth of the Carmel River Nov. 12 (EM, AM). The male American Redstart at the same place stayed (mob) at least through Nov. 19 (EM, AM).

Two rare orioles appeared in early November: an Orchard at the Lighthouse Nov. 1 (DE, *et al.*) and a "Baltimore" at the Bodega Bay Sewage Ponds Nov. 5 (KVV, RROS). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** found beside the Nunes Ranch pond Nov. 4 (JL, MM mob) were last seen Nov. 8 (BR). San Francisco's male **Great-tailed Grackle** was once again refound at the Palace of Fine Arts Nov. 18-19 (AMcN), having been present since summer. When this grackle colonizes Northern California in force will it prefer urban parks to rice fields?

## SPARROWS

A Sharp-tailed Sparrow seen at Pine Gulch Creek, Bolinas Lagoon, on Nov. 4-5 (RS, *et al.*) marked the third consecutive winter this sparrow has been detected there. Another Sharp-tailed Sparrow on Nov. 5

(DM) was at Palo Alto Baylands Refuge, another site of prior occurrence. Vesper Sparrows are sufficiently rare on the coast that the one at the Nunes Ranch pond Nov. 8 (BR) might be suspected of being the same one at the ranch twelve days earlier. The first apparently-wintering White-throated Sparrow arrived in Berkeley Nov. 7 (BS) and another was at the Shields Salt Marsh Nov. 10 (DZ). A Swamp Sparrow at the latter site Nov. 9-10 (*fide* DZ) preceded one at Rogers Ranch, inner Point Reyes, Nov. 11 (EM).

Observations of **McCown's Longspurs** in the field south of the Hall Ranch continued through Nov. 10 (SHu). Photos confirmed suspicions that at least two individuals had been seen, at different times, and two were heard together on Nov. 7 (WG). Lapland Longspurs at Hall Ranch increased to about 18 on Nov. 7-8 (BR, *et al.*) and to 30-50 on Nov. 17 (BE). Peak counts of Chestnut-collared Longspurs remained about six (mob) through Nov. 17 (BE). In the field southwest of Spalletta Ranch about twelve Laplands and seven Chestnut-collareds were present through Oct. 31 (AG, WG), and smaller numbers remained into the first week of November (mob). Two **Snow Buntings** enlivened the coast of Mendocino County: MacKerricher State Park Nov. 12 (EMe) through Nov. 17 (OK, EMe, KVV) and Nov. 25 (KVV, *fide* JW), and mouth of the Garcia River Nov. 16 (KVV).

*Erratum:* The discussion at the middle of page 135 in the December issue should begin "Perhaps the suspected population *crash* . . ." (italics added).

**Observers:** Stephen F. Bailey, Dennis Beall, Laurence C. Binford, George Bing, Ron Branson, Frank Collins, Herold Connon, Linda Doerflinger, Bruce Elliott, Dick Erickson, Leora Feeney, Steve Foreman, Bud Fry, Steve Gelman, Al Ghiorso, Wilma Ghiorso, Golden Gate Audubon Society, Ray Hasey, Bill Herring (BHe), Suzanne Herring (SHe), Susan Hilinski (SHi), Bob Hirt (BHi), Susan Huntington (SHu), Vince Kehoe, Oliver Kolkman, Jeri Langham, Pete LaTourrette, Akiko Makishima, Eugene Makishima (EM), Bill Manolis, many observers (mob), Mike Matis, Diane McClung, Joe McGee, Adalaida McNamee, Esther Meskis (EMe), Joe Morlan, Doug Morton, Gary Page, Arvil Parker, Dennis Parker, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Redwood Region Ornithological Society, Bob Richmond, Jim Rosso, Barry Seelye, Dave Shuford, Rich Stallcup, Lynne Stenzel, Kent Van Vuren, Jon Winter, Jon Zablackis, Dave Zumeta.

—STEPHEN F. BAILEY, *Observations Editor*  
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California,  
Berkeley, CA 94720 (548-9507)

## Birding Classes

GGAS will sponsor the following classes this winter:

**Stephen Bailey**, *Gull* Observation Editor, will continue his classes through the Albany Adult School during its ten-week winter quarter starting January 8. Intermediate level classes will meet Tuesday, 7:30-9:30 p.m., and Saturday, 8-11 a.m.

The evening class uses slides of birds while the Saturday morning meetings will be field trips to seasonally appropriate habitats. Both classes emphasize techniques of field observation and description of birds and their behavior while teaching recognition of California birds and bird identification. The combination of these classes is recommended for challenging and stimulating the student to improve as a field observer.

A course in the Advanced Identification of Non-Passerines will meet Thursdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Slides will be used to teach the separation of similar species in the field.

The cost for each class is \$20. For more information call the school at 526-6811.

For information about additional field classes on weekdays, call Steve at 548-9507 or leave a message for him at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, UC Berkeley, 642-3567.

**Susanne Luther** will continue to teach her ornithology classes through the Piedmont Adult School during the winter quarter, January 9 - March 9.

The Tuesday evening class, 7-9:30 p.m., features slides and discussion of field identification of the species of California and general ornithology. Weekend trips to Marin, Monterey, Sonoma and Mendocino counties are scheduled for this quarter to explore some new areas and look for the rich and varied species that winter along our coast.

A Thursday morning class, 9 a.m.-12 noon, will continue to meet in the field at various spots around the Bay Area to sample the wide variety of species that winter here. Bring your binoculars to the first class; we will go to a nearby birding spot after registration.

For more information call the school at 653-9454.

**Marie Mans** will conduct a series of five evening classes on Bird Sounds through Albany Adult School. Each session will feature the songs of a different group of birds, demonstrated with tapes and slides. The student will learn how to distinguish these sounds, hear details of their structure and discover their functions and seasonal rhythms. Other topics will include field recording equipment, how to decipher sonograms and to help you improve your aural memory.



Suitable for beginning and intermediate birders or anyone interested in the sound of nature, the classes will be held on Wednesday evenings from January 31-February 28, 7:30-9:30 p.m. The cost will be \$10. For further information call the school at 526-6811.

**Don Roberson**, former Observations Editor of *The Gull* and author of *Birders' California*, will teach a two-section class on birding in Central California and the Bay Area through the Alameda Adult School. Classes are designed for those with some birding experience but beginners are also welcome. Each section has three Wednesday evening classes with extensive slide presentations and two Saturday field trips to top birding localities.

Section One, Wintering Shorebirds, will examine the multitudes of ducks, swans, loons, grebes and other birds that winter on our waters from the coast to the Central Valley. The class will see a high percentage of all regular species. First class begins Wednesday, January 10, at 7 p.m.

Section Two, Shorebirding, studies birds of mudflats and lagoons. First class is Wednesday, February 21, at 7 p.m.

The cost of each section is \$14. You may enroll for either section at the first class meeting. Classes and registration are at the Alameda Adult School, 2200 Central Ave., Alameda. For more information call 522-6710.

## Birding Tilden Park

### The Pack Rat - Jewel Lake Loop

Tilden Park, the senior East Bay Regional Park, offers some of the best and most productive birding habitat easily accessible to urban dwellers.

One of my favorite walks, year long, is the Pack Rat-Jewel Lake loop. This gently beautiful walk of just over a mile passes through a variety of biotic communities, from conifers to oak, madrone and bay; brushy hillsides covered with blackberry, elderberry, thimble berry and fern, and the plant life found around fresh water, such as cattails, alders and willows. Along the east side of the lake are eucalyptus— while not native, they nevertheless benefit a number of bird species by providing feeding, nesting and perching opportunities.

It is especially rewarding to watch the birds come and go with the seasons along this trail. At any time of year you will encounter many of the approximately 25 resident species, including California Quail, Steller's and Scrub Jay, Brown and Rufous-sided Towhee, Wrentit, Common Bushtit, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Song Sparrow, Plain Titmouse,

Black Phoebe, Bewick's Wren, House Finch, Anna's Hummingbird and Red-tailed Hawk.

But suddenly one spring morning there may be four or five species of warblers in a single live oak along with bushtits and chickadees. The eucalyptus may swarm with Cedar Waxwings.

In the fall you may hit another such day of transition; after the relative inactivity of the summer months, you will find Western Tanagers are passing through along with Northern Orioles, Black-headed Grosbeaks and a few migrant warblers. Winter Wrens return along with Fox, Golden-crowned and White-crowned Sparrows.

Each migratory season provides excitement. In addition to the expected spring warblers (Wilson's, Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped and Townsend's), Nashville, MacGillivray's, Hermit, Black-throated Gray, Black-and-white, Hooded Warblers, Northern Parula and American Redstart have been reported. A Worm-eating Warbler was discovered this last July—surely a late and unexpected visitor.

Fall and early winter usually produce a few migrant warblers and the occasional vagrant (a Chestnut-sided Warbler was here for two weeks in November-December, 1976. Northern Waterthrush, Canada and Hooded Warbler have been seen). Ducks return to Jewel Lake by early December. Hooded Merganser, Wood Duck, American Wigeon, Ring-necked Duck, Barrow's and Common Goldeneye, Canvas-back and Bufflehead have been seen sharing the lake with resident Mallards.

At the very beginning of the trail near the bicycle stands, the habitat is quite varied. There are conifers and willows, live oaks and tangled blackberry thickets. Be sure to give this area a thorough search. In the fall and winter thrushes, including the handsome and furtive Varied Thrush, are common. In spring American Goldfinches nest in the blackberries, Black-headed Grosbeaks sing from the top of the conifers and Olive-sided Flycatchers and Purple Finches from the top of eucalyptus.

As you walk up the path listen for the tell-tale scruffling of Rufous-sided Towhees as they forage in the underbrush. Notice the different sorts of vegetation; in March and April the Rufous Hummingbird often feeds at the blossoms of the madrone while in the fall Band-tailed Pigeons enjoy the berries. Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Plain Titmice and Western Wood Pewee have nested here and a careful look may find the pendulously abitious nest of the Bushtit.

When you get to the a "T" intersection in the trail, bear right (to go left merely takes you to Cañon Drive. You may want to digress along this path a short distance, however, to see one of the park's uncommon leatherwood shrubs on the west side of the trail).

Wrentits favor this area of scrubby underbrush and poison oak. If you do not see these birds, you should hear them. Walk north, listening for twittering flocks of bushtits and chickadees, because warblers often flock with them feeding among the oaks. In the spring you might discover the nest of an Allen's Hummingbird or an Orange-crowned Warbler.

Sometimes, late October to early spring, a sudden hush falls over the trail as small birds take cover. With an impressive show of agility a Sharp-shinned Hawk skids among the trees only a few feet off the ground searching for prey.

As the trail becomes more open and you can see north and east out over the park, look for Red-tailed and Cooper's Hawks. In the fall look skyward for migratory birds; in September I've seen flocks of Vaux's Swifts going south.

Also look down as you walk to see what other creatures have preceded you. Footprints of raccoon, brush rabbit, deer and opossum are common. While it's not unusual to catch sight of a Black-tailed doe, bucks are occasionally seen.

The high tangles of blackberry, twinberry and elderberry near the north end of Pack Rat are favored by Fox Sparrows; the twin-berry blossoms lure hummingbirds in the spring. Listen for the *pseet* of the Western Flycatcher who often perches in the elderberries.

In spring the vocal chorus of Red-winged Blackbirds at Jewel Lake announces their presence before you actually see them. Turn left where Pack Rat intersects the Jewel Lake Nature Trail and enjoy the territorial displays of the male Blackbirds in the cattails and willows. Check around the base of the tules for Sora and Virginia Rail.

As you pass around the north end of the lake listen in the tall, rather murky conifers that cover the path for Golden-crowned Kinglets in fall and early winter.

The footbridge that crosses Wildcat Creek is a good place to see Black Phoebe. In spring, look in the eucalyptus and willows as you head back toward the Environmental Center for nesting Northern Orioles and Black-headed Grosbeaks as well as Hutton's and Warbling Vireos. Dark-eyed ("Oregon") Juncos like the coyote bush and fallen eucalyptus bark and foraging and nesting. Hummingbirds feed on eucalyptus nectar and the Brown Creeper takes advantage of the fact that the bark of the tree, being very thin, tends to peel off in coils and often builds his nest in the coils.

Walk south along the lake to the Boardwalk, which passes through

riparian habitat of willows, elders, dogwood, rushes and sedges. Warblers and vireos are common and Downy (sometimes Hairy) Woodpeckers forage and nest. Winter Wrens favor the moist tangles of vegetation at ground level, but are more often heard than seen. This is the best place to see and hear Swainson's Thrush. A walk just before sunset in June offers up a symphony.

When you reach the south end of the Boardwalk, turn left briefly to inspect the open meadow to the east; while you're looking for an odd sparrow a Belted Kingfisher sometimes rattles overhead en route to the lake. Then follow the road south past the Environmental Center and back to the parking lot.

To reach the area covered in this article, drive up Spruce Street from north Berkeley. Where Spruce intersects Grizzly Peak Boulevard cross Grizzly and immediately turn left down Cañon Drive, following signs directing you to the Tilden Nature Area. Turn left at the bottom of Cañon Drive and park as far north as possible in the large parking lot.

You can obtain a hikers' map of the Tilden Nature Study Area at the Environmental Center — open daily except Monday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. — or you can get your bearings from a large wooden map in front of the building.

Remember, when you are exploring this or any other natural area, to stay on designated trails. Deviating from them destroys habitat, encourages erosion and does absolutely nothing to suggest that birders care for the environment.

Steve Abbors, an East Bay Regional Park naturalist, leads birding tours each Thursday morning from 7-9 a.m. He will lead a walk in the Tilden Nature Area on January 25. For further information on this or other EBRP birding walks, call 525-2233.

—NANCY CONZETT

## Conservation Notes

**CARTER MOVES TO SAVE ALASKA LANDS.** Some of the best conservation news of the year came last month when President Carter took executive action to protect permanently millions of acres of pristine Alaskan wilderness. Empowered by the Antiquities Act of 1906 to proclaim any Federal lands to be National Monuments permanently, with no size limits on the areas to be designated, the President made huge additions to Katmai and Glacier Bay National Monuments and set aside Misty Fjords and Admiralty Islands forever. Altogether, by a



stroke of the pen, 56 million acres were preserved as permanent wilderness. At the same time he directed the Secretary of the Interior to begin the process to establish 39 million acres in wildlife refuges, for a grand total of 95 million acres.

This year Congress, which is usually jealous of its authority to create parks, will again attempt to pass an Alaska lands bill. But President Carter, by his decisive and timely action, has shown he is willing to protect the land himself, should Congress fail in its duty.

**95TH CONGRESS.** The overall record for the 1978 session was mixed. In addition to the disappointment of the failed Alaska bill there was an extension of the Endangered Species Act which will serve to *weaken* the law's intent and put development interests ahead of wildlife and habitat preservation. On the bright side, there was an omnibus park bill that will create or expand a great number of park and wilderness areas; the passage of the plan for the Boundary Waters Canoe area, mostly in Minnesota and one of the nation's largest wilderness tracts, and finally passage of the hard-fought, 48,000-acre addition to Redwood National Park.

**YOSEMITE PLAN COMMENTS.** There is still time to comment on the Park Service's plan for the future of Yosemite. The "general management plan" seems mostly worthy of support and the handsome volume, with many drawings and sketches, makes interesting reading. It may be seen in the GGAS office. Written comments on the draft plan should be submitted on or before January 15 to: Superintendent, P.O. Box 577-GMP, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389.

**DI BACKS AUDUBON CONDOR PLAN.** The U.S. Department of the Interior has agreed with National Audubon's assessment of the condor's rapid flight toward extinction and will back the Society's recommended captive breeding program. Top Interior officials say a comprehensive plan for trying to save America's largest land bird is being developed now and will be out very shortly.

—CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

## Scholarship Offered

A scholarship is available from GGAS for one session at the Audubon Ecology Camp in the West near Dubois, Wyoming, during July or August, 1979.

National Audubon's objective at this camp is to give knowledge and understanding of the natural world to people who will then return to their communities and participate in local conservation issues while at the same time sharing knowledge gained at the camp.

This objective is carried out by teacher-naturalists who provide first hand experience with nature through daily field trips and evening sessions at the camp.

Anyone over 18 years of age may apply. For an application form or for more information, contact the GGAS office (843-2222). The scholarship will be awarded at the end of February.

—EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## Space Available on Worldwide Tours

There are still spaces available on the following GGAS-sponsored tours in 1979.

*Birding in Western Mexico*, February 16-25, 1979. Leaders: Kenn Kaufman and Mike Wihler. For information call Mike Wihler, 664-6567.

*Sea of Cortez*, April 22-29, 1979. A natural history tour. For information call Adventures International, 531-6564.

*Humpback Whale Adventure*, Maui, Hawaii, April 7-15, 1979. For information call Adventures International, 531-6564.

*Southern Florida Birding Tour*, May 5-15, 1979. Leaders: Kenn Kaufman and Mike Wihler. For information call Mike Wihler, 664-6567.

*Southeastern Arizona Birding Special*, June 24-30, 1979. Leader: Kenn Kaufman. For information call Mike Wihler, 664-6567.

*Africa - Tanzania or Kenya and Madagascar*. Three weeks in July and August, 1979. Leaders: Don Turner and Mike Wihler. For information call Forum Travel, 843-8294, or Mike Wihler, 664-6567.

—EXTENDED FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

## News from ACR

November was a Red Letter Month for Audubon Canyon Ranch; Madrone Audubon Society, our neighbor in Sonoma County, voted to become a fourth governing partner of our corporation. At a special meeting on November 20, the Directors of ACR confirmed the arrangement. From now on, Marin, Golden Gate, Sequoia and Madrone Audubon Societies will be equally represented on our Board of Directors by their four presidents and four members from each society.

This development strengthens and broadens the base of ACR and brings a thousand new Audubon members into our basic support group.

The Ranch is now at the center, instead of on the flank, of a true circle of interest and support. Cypress Grove and our properties on Tomales Bay are actually even closer to Sonoma County than to Southern Marin.

We welcome President Leslie Perry and his fellow members to our Board and the membership of Madrone Audubon to the ACR family.

—STAN PICHER, *Chairman and President, ACR*

## New Books Received by GGAS:

Due to limited space we regret that we cannot review all new books received.

*A Bibliography of Arizona Ornithology*, Anders H. Anderson, University of Arizona Press, 1972.

*The Birds of Arizona*, Allan Phillips, *et al*, University of Arizona Press, 1978. (See review below)

*The Cactus Wren*, Anders H. Anderson, University of Arizona Press, 1973.

*Garden Spice and Wild Pot Herbs*, Walter C. Muenscher, Cornell University Press, 1978.

*Wild Geese*, M.A. Ogilvie, Buteo Books, 1978.

*The Birds of Arizona* by Phillips, Marshall and Monson. Along with species descriptions, records of sightings, 126 distribution maps and habitat description, there are 12 field sketches in color by George Mikse Sutton and 51 action photographs in color by Eliot Porter. This beautiful book can be enjoyed by both amateur and professional birders.

—LIBRARY REVIEW COMMITTEE

## Gifts and Bequests

### FOR AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

#### In memory of

Myra Jones Browne

Alfred Todt

Dr. Harold Lambert

#### Gift of

Lolita Peterson

Claire and Fred Hellman

Claire and Fred Hellman

### FOR ALAMEDA-SAN LEANDRO BAY NATURE FUND

#### In honor of

Elsie Roemer

Beth and Bob Hitchcock

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Margaret and Ralph Hilton

Nancy and Beeky Conzett

Memorial and honorary gifts and bequests will be used as specified by the donors. Acknowledgement will be made in *The Gull* and personally by the Corresponding Secretary, Minnie Groshong. Please send checks made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society to: Corresponding Secretary, GGAS, 2718 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, California 94705. All gifts are tax deductible.



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## THE GULL

January 1979

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) 843-2211

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Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to the GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$18 per year (individual); \$21 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$4 per year; single issues 40¢. High school and college student membership \$13.50 per year. Senior citizen individual, \$13.50, senior citizen family, \$15.50.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

***The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.**